

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 H-01 PRS-01 PA-01
USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 OMB-01
L-03 CIEP-01 CEA-01 FRB-03 ARA-06 /073 W
-----061639Z 093363 /46
R 061626Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8515

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 00444

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR FR PINT
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR RUSH'S CONVERSATION WITH MAURICE
SCHUMANN: SUPPORT FOR CHIRAC'S INITIATIVE

1. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER MAURICE SCHUMANN MADE FOLLOW-
ING INTERESTING COMMENTS DURING OUR TETE-A-TETE LUNCHEON
AT THE RESIDENCE JANUARY 5:

2. SCHUMANN POINTED TO THE FACT THAT HE HAD BEEN ON THE
PLATFORM AT THE ORGANIZING CONGRESS OF CHIRAC'S NEW RPR
MOVEMENT DECEMBER 5 AND HAD MADE ONE OF THE SPEECHES, AS
EVIDENCE OF HIS COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH CHIRAC'S POLITI-
CAL OBJECTIVES. HE WOULD NOT HAVE CONSENTED TO PARTICI-
PATE IN THE EXERCISE IF HE HAD CONSIDERED CHIRAC AN
EXTREMIST OR OTHERWISE DANGEROUS TO THE CURRENT RULING
COALITION. SCHUMANN FEELS THAT CHIRAC PROVIDES THE BEST
HOPE FOR DEFEATING THE UNION OF THE LEFT IN THE 1978
LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. HE FEELS THAT CHIRAC WOULD LIKE
TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER AGAIN IN THE EVENT OF A MAJOR-
ITY VICTORY SO AS TO BE IN THE BEST POSITION TO RUN FOR
PRESIDENT IN 1981.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF THE US POSTURE TOWARD THE FRENCH
INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, SCHUMANN SAID THAT WHILE
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IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE U.S. POSITION ON COMMUNIST PAR-
TICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT BE KNOWN, IT IS EXTREMELY IM-
PORTANT THAT THE ISSUE OF U.S. INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL
FRENCH AFFAIRS NOT BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE COMMUNIST
ISSUE. IN OTHER WORDS, BY PUSHING TOO HARD ON THE COM-
MUNIST QUESTION FROM THE OUTSIDE, WE RISK INHIBITING
THE MAJORITY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE IN-

TERNALLY.

4. SCHUMANN SAID HE CONSIDERS IT COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC FOR GISCARD TO THINK THAT HE CAN SPLIT THE SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COALITION BEFORE THE 1978 ELECTION. HE AGREES

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USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 EB-07 OMB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 00444

WITH CHIRAC THAT A CLEAR DEMARCATION LINE BETWEEN LEFT AND RIGHT MUST BE DRAWN AND THE ELECTORAL BATTLE FOUGHT ON THAT BASIS.

5. ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, SCHUMANN PREDICTED THAT THE BILL PROVIDING FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO PROBLEMS IN PASSING BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, RATIFICATION OF THE JAMAICA MONETARY AGREEMENTS WOULD RUN INTO TROUBLE. SCHUMANN SAID THAT HE PLANS TO VOTE AGAINST THE JAMAICA AGREEMENTS WHEN THE RATIFICATION BILL COMES BEFORE THE SENATE. HE FEELS THAT WHILE THE RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN STOPPING US MANIPULATION OF THE DOLLAR TO OBTAIN UNFAIR TRADE ADVANTAGES, THE JAMAICA ACCORDS DO NOT GO FAR ENOUGH TOWARD THE STABILIZATION OF EXCHANGE RATES. HE WAS UNCONVINCED BY MY RESPONSE THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO ENVISAGE STABILIZED EXCHANGE RATES WITHOUT THE EXISTENCE OF A COMMON MONETARY STANDARD AND WITH WIDELY VARYING INFLATION RATES AMONG THE INDUSTRIALIZED POWERS.

6. COMMENT: SCHUMANN'S COMMENTS ABOUT CHIRAC'S ACTI-

VITIES REINFORCE OUR VIEW THAT THE FORMER PRIME MINIS-
TER'S EFFORTS ARE NECESSARY IF THE LEFT IS GOING TO BE
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BLOCKED FROM VICTORY IN 1978. SCHUMANN'S VIEWS ABOUT
OUR HANDLING OF THE COMMUNIST QUESTION FROM THE OUTSIDE
ARE ALSO QUITE COGENT. OUR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS SHOULD, I THINK,
BE RARE, SUBTLE, AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY TIMED SO AS TO KEEP
THE INTERFERENCE ISSUE FROM OBSCURING THE COMMUNIST PAR-
TICIPATION ISSUE.
RUSH

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